--**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Disclosed is a magnetic drive for an electrical switch, including a linear armature (26) displaceable between two ends positions, a shunt body (27) mounted at a distance from said armature and means (24, 25, 30, 31) for generating a magnetic field. The magnetic field exerts a force on the armature (26) retaining the latter in the end positions. By joining the shunt body (27) with the armature (26), the course of the flow lines of the magnetic field are changed in such a way that the retaining force exerted on the armature (26) is reduced and the latter is displaced to the other end position, optionally by a force exerted externally on the armature (26), and retained in the position by the magnetic field. Disconnection is effected by the shunt body (27), were after being joined with the shunt body (27) the armature (26) is moved from the end position opposite the shunt body (27) to the end position facing the shunt body (26). Fixing means (37-40, 42-45) are especially provided which hold the shunt body (27) in the end position opposite said shunt body and which joins the shunt body with the armature (26) when the electric switch (1) is disconnected requiring little energy/force expenditure.--